

RICHLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES

April 14, 2020

Members Present: Diane Bonin, Janet Budzeck, Pastor Steve Ernst, Jenifer Haler, Jim Honeyman, Fred Kremmer, Bill Peterson, Valerie Silva, Pastor Corey Smith and Sandy Steele

Absent: Kiane Lesser

Opening: The regular monthly meeting of the Richland Lutheran Church Congregation Council was held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via 'Zoom' due to the Corona Virus pandemic quarantine and opened by the president, Sandy Steele. Devotions and prayer were provided by Bill.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. **President's Report** – Sandy began her report by thanking everyone for their support during these difficult and strange times and for their participation in the 40 days of Lent devotions. She reported that with the 'Stay at Home' governor's order, worship is taped via live streaming, necessary meetings are held via 'Zoom' and staff work from home and only go into the office on a periodic basis. The following activities have been postponed until this pandemic is over: (a) congregational meeting to approve distribution of the Retreat Center Funds, (b) demolition of the two remaining houses and (c) permanent sanctuary lighting installation (temporary lighting installation was completed earlier in the month). Because it was considered a safety issue, the walkway repair on the Stevens Drive side of the church was completed. As a result of the current situation, giving has dropped; therefore Richland Lutheran Church has applied for government assistance through the CARE Act, as well as an Economic Injury Disaster Loan and is waiting to hear the status of these two requests. Fred wondered about the status of the RLC Foundation, but no update was available, and how the Food Bank was doing, to which Pastor Steve answered they are still open.
2. **Lead Pastor's Report** – Pastor Steve extended thanks to the council for their quick decisions in areas that required an immediate response, thanked Corey for the great partnership they have and thanked the staff for all their invaluable help. He is currently providing daily devotions on the RLC Grapevine and will be sending the quarterly giving report to Kelly tomorrow. Sandy asked if there had been any requests to the Urgent Assistance Fund, to which Pastor Steve responded 'not at this time'.
3. **Associate Pastor's Report** – Pastor Corey commented the staff has been phenomenal throughout this time and Pastor Steve has been fantastic with his leadership. He reported the Praise Team is meeting via Zoom, but not performing. The weekend lunch program at Sacajawea had been suspended due to Covid-19, but in response to a request from the Parent Teacher's Organization for our help this will be starting again soon with all precautions being taken. Corey has been spending time keeping in touch with church members and planning a combined service for whenever we can begin worshipping together again. He remarked that at

future live stream services, he will continue to play his guitar and Susie Nunamaker will be playing hymns on the piano.

4. **Financial Report** - Bill reported the church is 41% below the budget projection and running 108% of the budget. He also was able to sign the required Piton documents.

CONSENT AGENDA: A motion was made, seconded and passed approving the following without discussion:

1. Approve the minutes from the regular March 10, 2020, council meeting.
2. Approve the following committee/team members:
 - a. 75th Anniversary Planning Committee – Kathy Umbarger
 - b. 2020 Visioning Team – Laurel Palmblad and Lori Lachut

Old Business:

1. Special Congregational meeting – will reschedule when possible.
2. 2020 Christian Education Scholarship(s) – a motion was made and seconded to suspend the award of scholarships for 2020 in order to allow for additional review and revision. After discussing the motion, it was approved. Sandy will write an article for The Preview to inform the congregation. In order to recognize this year’s graduating seniors, council will plan something special for them.
3. Review of Constitution/Bylaws:
 - a. Chapter 5 - Church Affiliation: Jenifer and Valerie recommended changes as follows: C5.01 – add ‘one or more’ before denominations and add ‘and/or affiliations which’ after denominations; delete C5.02, change numbers to reflect deleting C5.02 and add ‘and/or affiliation’ at the end of C5.03c.
 - b. Chapter 6 – Property Ownership: Bill and Jim suggested deleting ‘continue to’ after shall in C6.01 so the sentence will read: “Title to property shall reside in this congregation”.
 - c. Chapter 7 – Membership: Janet and Fred with input from Pastor Steve and Sandy recommended the following: C7.01 add an ‘s’ to the word roll, C7.02c change two years to one year, C7.02d change the last sentence after the word offices to read ‘to include the Congregation Council and Nominating Committee’, C7.02.02 change from two years to one year and C7.03 change applications to ‘applicants’. A motion was made and seconded to approve the change in C7.02c. After discussing the motion, it was approved with one in opposition. A motion was made and seconded to approve all other revisions to Chapter 7. After discussing the motion, it was approved.
 - d. Chapter 8 – The Pastor: After lengthy discussion regarding Sandy and Pastor Steve’s suggested changes, those present via Zoom approved tabling further review and discussion of this Chapter to the May council meeting.

- e. Chapter 9 – Congregation Meeting: After review by Diane and Kiame, they suggested changing C9.03 to read: “Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given verbally at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by written communication to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting.’ The last sentence for C9.03 was deleted. A motion was made and seconded to accept these changes. After discussing the motion, it was approved.
4. Identify/approve committee members for the following committees:
 - a. Facilities Fundraising (2) – Biblical Stewardship MALT recommend individuals and then discuss at next council meeting
 - b. 75th Anniversary Planning (3) – continue reflecting on who might serve
 - c. 2020 Visioning Team (2) – Pastor Steve will contact suggested individuals and give them a choice as to which committee they would like to serve on.

New Business:

1. Shalom Ecumenical Committee Foundation Board – Sandy informed the council that Rich Olsen (2018-2020) had resigned; therefore an individual is needed to complete Rich’s term and possibly continue to serve for another term. Rich Barchet, who currently serves on this board, informed Sandy that he would help recruit someone to complete the term. Sandy will inform Rich of the individual suggested by council.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Special prayers for the 2021 Nominating Committee as they search for next year’s council candidates
2. May council devotions and Preview article – Janet; April Preview article - Bill
3. April MALT meetings via Zoom: Worship on Thursday, April 23rd at 11:30 a.m.; Spiritual Growth on Monday, April 27th at 5:00 p.m.; Christian Service on Tuesday, April 28th at 5:00 p.m. and Biblical Stewardship on Monday, April 27th at 4:00 p.m.
4. Agenda items for council meeting on Tuesday, April 12th:
 - a. Chapter 8 – The Pastor and Chapter 4 – Powers of the Congregation. Possible changes suggested for Chapter 8 will necessitate changes to Chapter 4.
 - b. Chapter 10 – Officers: Jim and Bill
 - c. Chapter 11 – Congregation Council: Sandy
 - d. Chapter 12 – Congregation Committees – Janet and Fred
 - e. Chapter 13 – Organizations with the Congregation: Jenifer and Val
 - f. Chapter 14 – Discipline of Members & Adjudication - Sandy

ADJOURN:

Sandy adjourned the Zoom meeting at 9:00 p.m. Council members closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Council Secretary Janet R. Budzeck